Irondale Historical Society

www.IrondaleOntario.ca March/April 2012

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HCDC Research Grant Approved

The Irondale Historical Society has much to thank the Haliburton County Development Corporation for. The Society's research proposal was chosen to receive a small grant. The money allows an experienced researcher to make trips on our behalf to the various government archives. The first trip is planned for April 25th to the Archives of Ontario.

These trips will garner us photocopies of documents pertaining to the history of the Irondale area. These copies will be stored in protective plastic sleeves in binders, allowing us to access them easily.

A wish list has been in place for some time now. It will be a real treat to have items that can be referred to outside regular office hours — as your editor is generally working on the Irondale Historical Society's newsletters in the late evening hours. (Anybody that has had an email from her will attest to that.)

Future newsletters will highlight the found information. Displays can be formed around the copies found at the various archives.

Plans are to visit the Provincial Archives in Toronto, the National Archives in Ottawa, the Trent Valley Archives in Peterborough & the libraries in Lindsay & Peterborough. As well there will be hours of microfilm to go through at the Registry Office in Minden.

All of these places will undoubtedly uncover resources that need to be checked & rechecked in other locations as well.

We are very thankful to the Haliburton County Development Corporation for approving our application for funding.

This issue focuses on the schools within the Irondale area.

There has always been an interest among historians with school records. We are no different. Grenville Schrader submitted a 1949 newspaper clipping — see it at www.IrondaleOntario.ca

The Common School Act for Upper Canada, in 1850 created school sections as the smallest unit for the administration of rural public schools. A school section (S.S.) was from 3 to 5 miles square and was administered by a board of three elected trustees. The trustees were responsible for hiring teachers, administering finances and the management of school property and equipment.

Funding for school sections primarily came from the ratepayers (owners of taxable property within the school section) and departmental grants. The money was used for the upkeep of the schoolhouse, to pay the teachers salary, and to purchase books for the school library and school equipment from the Provincial Educational Depository

Union School Sections (U.S.S.) were formed by joining school sections from two or more townships. They were created by the joint action of the councils of each township concerned to ease the difficulties caused by inconvenient township borders.

Mark Your Calendars ...

You won't want to miss ...

Saturday May 26, 10 am to 4pm
Home Child Event
Minden Community Centre

Saturday June 2, 11 am
Victorian Tea
Kinmount Community Centre

Saturday July 14, 5 pm
Wild Game Dinner & Auctions
Galway Community Hall

U.S.S. #7 & 5 Snowdon & Galway was located at Furnace Falls, Lot 16 Con 1 Snowdon.

A story of interest that was has been retold often—in the 1940s the school board decided to create a new & modern 'educational institute'. The board couldn't reach a consensus as to a location for this new building. Half the individuals wanted it built on the school site (Lot 16 Con 1) already in use. The remaining members wanted the new school to be built on a site 1/2 mile away.

The solution? Build a school on both sites. The two schools were identical. When looking at pictures it would depend on the weather as to which you were looking at. January 1 the furniture was taken from the building at the Falls and set up in the school building 1/2 mile south. So January to June classes was held in the school built 1/2 mile south from the falls, the other five months classes were held in the school building on Lot 16 Con 1 at the Falls. Harold Carr went to this school. He was one of the students that had to do the long walk during the worst of the winter weather.

Furnace Falls School—June 1916, picnic day
L to R—Ida May Cook (teacher), Basic Carr, Charlie Shaw, Harold Carr, Emma Kylie, Millie Bacon, Eva Hardacres, Emily Shaw and Alice Stanhope.
The smaller children in front are unnamed.

This is the second time I have come across this photo— only one provided the names above. Perhaps our readers can provide those missing names.

Other notes I have found on this school—
SS #5, Lot 10 Con 18, Galway at Furnace Falls. Another union school section. Galway records it as S.S. # 5, Snowdon has it recorded as S.S. #7. The first teaching facilities were in a renovated house. In the times when the mines were booming there were a number o homes around the Falls where the miners lived with their families. Apparently a fire swept the hamlet and a log school was built on the south side of the road in 1880. Later a second school was constructed, which was destroyed by fire in 1916 and was replaced complete on the same site at a cost o $300 by Mr. Wm Schroter. After the school closed in 1951, the building had a complete renovation from schoolhouse to a lovely residence.

Class photos of any
White Lake, Furnace Falls and Irondale schools a
re wanted as well. Don't worry if you can't name the students.

Warm Welcome to our newest member -

Remember
If you want to see your name listed here in the next issue, you need to send in your $10 per person membership. Memberships purchased are valid until August 2012. Joining - shows others you support this worthy cause

Miss Catherine Bennison
(teacher 1927-1928)

Miss Edith Deyell
(teacher
1926—1927)

Irondale School
L to R: Ed Simmons,
Mac Hartin, Bill Procter,
Montrose Hancock
& Fred Simmons.

Clara McAlpine Flagler kindly lent us these photos to scan and share.

Irondale School 1928 (left to right):
_____, Margaret Simmons, Myrtle Hartin,
Mary Procter, Marie McAlpine & Clare McAlpine.

U.S.S. #1 & 8 Glamorgan & Snowdon The original school in Irondale was built of logs. There have been no records found for that school. The second school was built about 1894, called Union School Section #1 & 8 Glamorgan & Snowdon. Mr. Daniel Williams was one of the early teachers. The students on his attendance list were listed according to the township they lived in. Miss M. Davis was the teacher taking attendance in September 1911. Her attendance shows 6 students from Glamorgan and 2 from Snowdon. Miss Davis received $325 as teacher's yearly salary for April 1911 to June 1912. By April of 1915, E. McElwain was teaching - the students were listed without segregation as to residency. Mrs. Eleanor Cooper taught for the term of September 1954 to June 1955. She found that the students were in need of discipline. When she rang the bell to begin the school day, some of the boys refused to enter the school, others would jump out of the windows. Others remember school discipline well. It seems when the teacher used the strap on a student, no one in the class would laugh — or else they would get the strap as well.

Home Children of Canada

"Between 1869 and 1939, about 100,000 child immigrants, casualties of unemployment and poverty in Britain, were uprooted from their homes and families. With hopes of giving them new lives in Canada, British agencies sent children to receiving homes like this one. From here, a few of the younger children were adopted into Canadian families, but most were apprenticed as agricultural labourers or domestic servants. Often deprived of education and the comforts of family life, Home Children suffered loneliness and prejudice. Their experience reveals a poignant chapter in Canadian immigration history."

There have been many books written on this subject. A long-time researcher of Home Child immigration, Marjorie P. Kohli, published "The Golden Bridge: Young Immigrants to Canada, 1833 – 1939". This is an essential reference for those with Home Child roots or interested historians. The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa is dedicated to telling the story and John Sayers will be making those resources available for Home Child researchers. The names of the some of the primary organizers of the British homes and agencies who took in these children and sent them overseas were Maria Rye, Annie MacPherson, Thomas Barnardo, William Quarrier and James Middlemore. The Canadian government declared 2010 as the Year of the Home Child and Canada Post issued a commemorative stamp to honour them.

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You just never know where information is going to show up!

Carol was in a waiting room recently. Conversation starts with another waiting. It turns out the gentleman was Mr. Jerry Ford who had ties to the Irondale, Furnace Fall and White Lake areas. We will share some of this new information in the future

Taken about 1923 – 1924 Back row:
Agnes Simmons, Emma Simmons, Myrtle Hartin, Mary Simmons, Roger Williams, Geordie Simmons, Bill Procter, Ray Flood, Roy Williams
Front Row: Don Simmons, Margaret Simmons, Ed Simmons, Jean Graham, Max Hartin, Montrose Hancock

U.S.S. #1 & 8 Glamorgan & Snowdon

We received this photo from a couple sources -
Fred & Pearl Simmons, Dorothy Reid and Cora (Wright) Richards.
Each picture came with some names, we've combined them all to get a complete list. Circa 1930
Back Row—Miss Lucy Thompson (teacher), Lila Woermke, Norma Graham, Elida Spillinaer, Max Hartin, Joe Spillinaer and the Inspector
Front Row—Ruth Spillinaer, Keith Wright, Bert Graham, Margie Graham, Harold Wright, Clifford Wright, Jim Wright and Joe Hancock.

Home Children of Canada, continued

You can learn more about the Home Children story at an event being hosted by the Irondale Historical Society with support from the Haliburton Highlands Genealogy Group and the Haliburton County Library. Saturday, May 26, 2012 at the Minden Hills Community Centre. Doors open 10 am to 4 pm. Descendants of Home Children will share their ancestors with you. As well as the two people mentioned on page 3, there are four more authors—Sandra Joyce, Gloria Phillips, Gail Corbett and Kenneth Bagnell participating in the event. 'Canadian Stories' magazine publisher Ed Janzen launches "British Home Children Anthology 2012". Ivy Sucee of the Hazelbrae-Barnardo Memorial Home Group in Peterborough will speak on the 2010 Home Child Memorial Quilt and about the new monument erected by her group. She has lots of experience to answer all your questions.
Too much to take in? Relax with a coffee and watch a dvd on the topic. Admission is just $5 per person. Light refreshments are available.

Home Children Event
Saturday May 26, 2012
Minden Hills Community Centre, 55 Parkside Street
Doors open 10 am to 4 pm $5 per person
Full day of displays, presentations, research!

705-457-8438 or irondalehistory@gmail.com for ticket information

SCHOOL DAYS

School days, school days
Dear old golden rule days
Readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic
Taught to the tune of the hickory stick
You were my queen in calico
I was your bashful barefoot beau
And you wrote on my slate
"I love you, so"
When we were a couple of kids
Nothing to do, Nellie Darling
Nothing to do you say
Let's take a trip on memory's ship
Back to the bygone days
Sail to the old village school house
Anchor outside the school door
Look in and see
There's you and there's me
A couple of kids once more
School days, school days
Dear old golden rule days
Readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic
Taught to the tune of the hickory stick
You were my queen in calico
I was your bashful barefoot beau
And you wrote on my slate
"I love you, so"
When we were a couple of kids
'Member the hill
Nellie Darling
And the oak tree
That grew on its brow
They've built forty storeys
Upon that old hill
And the oak's an old chestnut now
'Member the meadows
So green, dear
So fragrant with clover and maize
Into new city lots
And preferred business plots
They've cut them up
Since those days
School days, school days
Dear old golden rule days.
Readin' and 'ritin' and 'rithmetic
Taught to the tune of the hickory stick
You were my queen in calico
I was your bashful barefoot beau
And you wrote on my slate
"I love you, so"
When we were a couple of kids

Sent to us by Elva Bates

Designation" confers a legal status on a property by a specific by-law under the Ontario Heritage Act and gives Council the legal authority to refuse an application that will adversely affect the property's heritage attributes.

Designation may fall under one of two categories under the Ontario Heritage Act: Part IV (individual property designation) or Part V (Heritage Conservation District designation).

James (Percy) Lavers
is this issue's Postage Hero
Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

White Lake School, S.S. #7 Galway

The White Lake school was a log structure situated on Lot 34, Con 18 Galway. It was built in 1880 as a union school with Snowdon and Glamorgan Townships, and served the children of Switzer, Peacock, Johnson, Smith, Ford and others. Some families moved from the area, and when there were only 2 school age children (Thompson) left to attend the School Board arranged with the teacher at Furnace Falls school to pick them up at the White Lake school, include them in the class at Furnace Falls school and deliver them back in the evening. This arrangement started in September 1942, indicating the doors at White Lake School were closed June 30 1942. This 'taxi service' didn't last long.
The Thompson family moved to Lindsay in November.

The photo above shows the congregation that had gathered for Sunday Service that day. Many of the schools in the remote areas were used for Sunday Church services until population sufficed to build a church.

Clare (McAlpine) Flagler's Recollections of Life in Irondale

My memories of Irondale including going to school in the one room school from age 5 to 7. My teachers were Miss Deyell and Miss Bennison. The school was heated by a large wood burning stove and parents often sent soup to heat for our lunches. Everyone walked to school – there were no buses in those times, and no electricity or refrigerators. We had what was called a root-house built into the earth to keep food cold.

2nd row from front (left to right) ___?___ , ___?___ , ___?___, Miss Deyell, Muriel Hartin, Mrs. Hartin, Mrs. Graham, Mr. & Mrs. Hancock, Mike McAlpine with son Nub, Laura McAlpine with Cecil McAlpine in arms.
Front row: Mary Procter, Bill Procter, Clare McAlpine, Jane Rumble, Marie McAlpine, 2 Simmons Girls, Montrose Hancock (head turned)

If you can assist with the missing names, please contact us using phone & email information located on the front page.

Can We Entice You
To Become
A Postage Provider ?

It takes $35 for postage each time we do a mailing. This money allows us to send a complete newsletter to all households on our mailing list.

Please consider donating enough postage for one mailing.

Contact a member of Board—contact information found on the front page.

Thank You for your support.

Update

Within hours of sending the last issue out—I received this picture by email from Dorothy (Hancock) Reid.
The photo shows William & Ethel Simmons store/home, sat across from the Irondale Church. The store was accessed using the door under the porch.
Dorothy's note told me the picture was taken 1958.

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE IRONDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Bring your loonies (& more) for some extra fun!
WILD GAME
DINNER
EVENT
$20.
SATURDAY JULY 14, 2012
at the Galway Hall just south of Kinmount
Doors open at 5 ~ Dinner at 6

2nd Annual Wild Game Dinner Event

Tickets will sell quickly — reserve yours today.

Tickets available from Directors listed on front page

or leave a message on cell # 705-457-8438